

Application No. 09/938,540
Reply to Office Action of August 26, 2003

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1-25 (Cancelled).

Claim 26 (New): An isolated polynucleotide, which encodes a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 27 (New): The isolated polynucleotide of Claim 26, wherein said protein has ccpA1 catabolite control activity.

Claim 28 (New): A vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of Claim 26.

Claim 29 (New): A host cell comprising the isolated polynucleotide of Claim 26.

Claim 30 (New): The host cell of Claim 29, which is a *Corynebacterium* or *Escherichia coli*.

Claim 31 (New): A method for making a ccpA1 protein which has catabolite control activity, comprising culturing the host cell of Claim 29 for a time and under conditions suitable for expression of the ccpA1 protein; and collecting the ccpA1 protein.

Claim 32 (New): An isolated polynucleotide, which comprises SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 33 (New): An isolated polynucleotide, which is complementary to the polynucleotide of Claim 32.

Claim 34 (New): An isolated polynucleotide, which is at least 90% identical to the polynucleotide of Claim 32, and encodes a protein which has ccpA1 catabolite control activity.

Claim 35 (New) An isolated polynucleotide, which comprises at least 15 consecutive nucleotides of the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 36 (New): An isolated polynucleotide, which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the complement the SEQ ID NO:1; wherein said stringent conditions comprise washing in 5X SSC at a temperature from 50 to 68°C, and wherein the polynucleotide encode a protein with ccpA1 catabolite control activity.

Claim 37 (New): A vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of any one of Claims 32 to 36.

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Claim 38 (New) A host cell comprising the isolated polynucleotide of Claim 37.

Claim 39 (New) The host cell of Claim 38, which is a *Corynebacterium* or *E. coli*.

Claim 40 (New) A method for making a ccpA1 protein which has catabolite control activity, comprising culturing the host cell of Claim 38 for a time and under conditions suitable for expression of the ccpA1 protein; and collecting the ccpA1 protein.

Claim 41 (New): *Escherichia coli* DSM 13673.

Claim 42 (New): A process for preparing L-amino acids, which comprises culturing a modified bacterial cell, in which the ccpA1 gene is not expressed, in a medium suitable for producing L-amino acids; and collecting the L-amino acids,

wherein the modified bacterial cell expresses a reduced level of the ccpA1 gene product, which is a catabolite control protein, compared to an unmodified bacterial cell, or

wherein the modified bacterial cell expresses a ccpA1 gene product having reduced catabolite control activity compared to the ccpA1 gene product expressed in an unmodified bacterial cell.

Claim 43 (New): The process of Claim 42, wherein the modified bacterial cell expresses a reduced level of the ccpA1 gene product, which is a catabolite control protein, compared to an unmodified bacterial cell.

Claim 44 (New): The process of Claim 42, wherein the modified bacterial cell expresses a ccpA1 gene product having reduced catabolite control activity compared to the ccpA1 gene product expressed in an unmodified bacterial cell.

Claim 45 (New): The process of Claim 42, wherein the modified bacterial cell further comprises one or more of the genes whose expression is increased relative to an unmodified bacterial cell, wherein the one or more genes are selected from the group consisting of:

the dapA gene which codes for dihydrodipicolinate synthase,

the eno gene which codes for enolase,

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the zwf gene which codes for the zwf gene product,
the pyc gene which codes for pyruvate carboxylase,
the lysE gene which codes for lysine export,
the dapD gene which codes for tetrahydrodipicolinate succinylase,
the dapE gene which codes for succinyl diamino-pimelate desuccinylase,
the gap gene which codes for glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase,
the mqo gene which codes for malate:quinone oxidoreductase,
the lysC gene which codes for a feed back resistant aspartate kinase, and
the zwal gene which codes for the Zwal protein.

Claim 46 (New): The process of Claim 42, wherein the modified bacterial cell is a *Corynebacterium*.

Claim 47 (New) The process of Claim 42, wherein the modified bacterial cell is a *Corynebacterium glutamicum* cell.

Claim 48 (New) An isolated polynucleotide, comprising nucleotides 225 to 1388 of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 49 (New): A vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of Claim 48.

Claim 50 (New): A host cell comprising the isolated polynucleotide of Claim 48.